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LITERATURE.

WELSH DICTIONARIES.—Although the Welsh language can already boast of two or three dictionaries of considerable merit, it is somewhat remarkable, that the idea of a Celtic or Cimbric Lexicon, embodying all the kindred dialects of the Welsh, has never yet been adopted. The utility of such a compilation, by which the various branches of the ancient Cimbric, such as the Welsh, Armoric, Cornish, and Erse languages, might be brought under one view, and their analogies compared, could not fail to be productive of the greatest benefit to our researches in each of these tongues, and might even tend, in no small degree, to determine the identity of the parent language itself. Some little has, indeed, been done towards this by Mr. Llwyd in his *Archæologia Britannica*; but he does not appear to have embraced the full extent of the idea here contemplated, besides that, even upon his own principle, his labours are extremely limited. Owen's Dictionary,—unquestionably the best, with reference to the Welsh tongue itself, from the minute examination which it makes of its radical properties,—takes no notice, however, of its kindred dialects. Dr. Davies's Latin-Welsh Dictionary does indeed, occasionally, compare the Welsh words with the correspondent terms in Armoric and Cornish; but in this there is no method observed, and the attention of its learned author seems to have been chiefly directed to the Hebrew and other oriental tongues. Add to this, that his work, however valuable, is deficient in some thousand words, which are comprised in the later labours of Mr. Owen. As for the other Welsh dictionaries, whatever may be their merit, they are not to be considered as coming, in any respect, within the principle here alluded to. Nor have the Gaelic and Irish Dictionaries of Shaw and O'Brien any pretension to the character of Cimbric Lexicons. The following extract from the Introduction to Mr. Owen's Dictionary explains, although in a more extended sense, the idea, which has given birth to the foregoing remarks:—"A work of the most beneficial consequence to the cause of truth yet remains to be executed; and which is a comparison of the various languages of the world, in order to discover the affinity existing between them. This, however, ought not to be a superficial performance; but, on the contrary, the stores of every language should be explicitly brought to view and collated together, so as to display accurately their connexions and similarity of character. The result of such a work would be

of the highest value, I conceive, from what I have discovered in the Welsh tongue, and more particularly, as far as I was able, by comparing it with others; and that value of it would consist in establishing most decidedly the proposition, that all languages are derived from a common origin. In addition to this it would likewise shew, which of them has preserved the character of the common parent with the least deviation." The work, above suggested under the title of *Cimbric Lexicon*, would have precisely the same effect with reference to a particular class of languages, that Mr. Owen's remarks contemplate as to languages generally.

The lovers of Welsh literature will be pleased to hear, that the publication of the *CELTIC REMAINS*, with respect to which some observations were offered in the last number, is likely to take place under the auspices of the learned individual then named, who has undertaken to perform this very acceptable service to his country. It is probable, however, as the task must necessarily be one of considerable labour, that it may not be completed in much less time than twelve months.

The Rev. P. B. WILLIAMS, of Llanrug, Carnarvonshire, is preparing for publication a work under the title of "A Guide to Tourists in the County of Carnarvon," which cannot fail to prove interesting to the admirers of that romantic part of North Wales.

A Welsh translation of the "Economy of Human Life" is now in the press, the work of a gentleman, who is well qualified to do ample justice to the undertaking. It will be printed on a cheap plan, so as to answer the laudable purpose of disseminating the very useful instruction, comprised in that valuable little work. The Editor cannot help profiting by this opportunity, to recommend this example to the general adoption of such of his countrymen, as may be capable of the task, and who feel an anxiety for the cultivation at once of their native tongue and of sound knowledge. For, he conceives, that these ends are to be more effectually attained by the translation of English works of acknowledged celebrity and utility, than by the publication of such crude and unedifying treatises, as have too often appeared in the Welsh tongue. For, without the least disrespect to any Welsh authors, it must be admitted, that our modern productions are not, in general, remarkable for the interest of the subjects, of which they treat.

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